

Porth Nanven House, St Just in Penwith, Cornwall Archaeological watching brief

**Cornwall Archaeological Unit** 

Report No: 2018R002

Porth Nanven House new sewer watching brief

# Porth Nanven House, St. Just in Penwith, Cornwall

Archaeological watching brief

Client	Mr. and Mrs. Haslam
Report Number	2018R002
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## Acknowledgements

This study was commissioned by Mr. and Mrs. Haslam and was carried out by Cornwall Archaeological Unit, Cornwall Council.

Help with the historical research was provided by Peter Joseph and Ted Mole. The Project Manager was Dr Andy Jones.

The views and recommendations expressed in this report are those of Cornwall Archaeological Unit and are presented in good faith on the basis of professional judgement and on information currently available.

## **Freedom of Information Act**

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Cover illustration: Machine excavation of the sewer trench in the gardens of Porthnanven House.

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Fig 12. The considerable topsoil depths found at the western end of the garden area, probably reflecting the location of a former earth bank boundary.

## Abbreviations

CAU	Cornwall Archaeological Unit
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
HER	Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Historic Environment Record
HE	Historic England
МСО	Monument number in Cornwall HER
NT	The National Trust
OD	Ordnance Datum – height above mean sea level at Newlyn
OS	Ordnance Survey

# 1 Summary

Cornwall Archaeological Unit (CAU) was contacted by Amanda Turner of the National Trust, Exeter, with a request for a method statement and archaeological watching brief to be undertaken at Cot Valley Lodge (now renamed Porth Nanven House), St. Just in Penwith, Cornwall, during the installation of a replacement septic tank and associated pipework trenching. The property is privately owned, but is subject to National Trust covenants. It is entirely surrounded by land owned and managed by the National Trust and the sewer trench will cross a section of land owned by the National Trust. The work has been requested by Mr. Jim Parry, the National Trust Regional Archaeologist, who supplied a brief to guide the work to be undertaken on site.

The adjacent area of the Cot Valley to the south of St. Just in Penwith is traversed by a number of tin lodes which are known to have been worked since at least the late medieval period. Documentary information suggests that this area lay within the post-medieval mining sett called the Reens; a chance find of a probably medieval hand-held mortar stone at the eastern end of the area traversed by the sewer trench some years ago confirms the early date of these workings.

The watching brief was undertaken in early January 2018. The only feature revealed consisted of the wall foundations of a documented yard. No artefacts were recovered.



Fig 1. The location of Cot Valley Lodge, St. Just in Penwith, Cornwall.



*Fig 2. The extent of the new sewer trench at Cot Valley Lodge.* 

# 2 Introduction

## 2.1 Project background

Cornwall Archaeological Unit (CAU) was contacted by Amanda Turner of the National Trust, Exeter, with a request for a method statement and archaeological watching brief to be undertaken at Cot Valley Lodge (now renamed Porth Nanven House), St. Just in Penwith, Cornwall, during the installation of a replacement septic tank and associated pipework trenching (Figs 1 and 2). The property is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Haslam, but is subject to National Trust covenants. It is entirely surrounded by land owned and managed by the National Trust and the sewer trench will cross a section of land owned by the National Trust. The work has been requested by Mr. Jim Parry, the National Trust Regional Archaeologist, who supplied a brief to guide the work to be undertaken on site.

## 2.2 Aims

The principal aim of the study is to gain a better understanding of the archaeology of this part of the Cot Valley and the wider St. Just area.

The objectives are to:

- Obtain an archaeological record of the site during the development.
- Produce a report on the findings of the watching brief.

## 2.3 Methods

All recording work was undertaken according to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) guidance (CIfA 2014a, 2014b, 2014c, 2017). Staff follow the CIfA *Code of Conduct* (2014d). The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists is the professional body for archaeologists working in the UK, and the work was guided by the National Trust brief dated 17 December 2017.

#### 2.3.1 Desk-based assessment

During a brief desk-based assessment historical databases and archives were consulted in order to obtain information about the history of the site and the structures and features that were likely to survive. The main sources consulted were as follows:

- Cornwall HER;
- Early maps and photographs;
- Archaeological reports;
- Relevant GIS datasets accessible to CAU.

#### 2.3.2 Fieldwork

The National Trust Regional Archaeologist advised that a watching brief was required on the site during groundworks to fulfil National Trust requirements in relation to its covenants over the property. This work was guided by CIfA's guidance on undertaking watching briefs (CIfA 2014b).

All groundworks which might potentially contain archaeological features were undertaken under archaeological supervision. This included the removal of soil across the site, the excavation of footing or service trenches, or other activities which resulted in the lowering of the present site levels. All soil stripping was undertaken by a machine equipped with a toothless grading bucket where possible. In a case where archaeological features were revealed, mechanical excavation was to be halted and the exposed features cleaned up by hand to determine their significance prior to either their recording or further mechanical excavation. The developer allowed reasonable time for the excavation and recording of any features thus revealed. Should a temporary stop of work have been required the site archaeologist was to request this via the client and the National Trust Regional Archaeologist.

## Recording

During the archaeological recording the archaeologist was to:

- Identify and record any archaeological features that are revealed; the level of recording was to be appropriate to the character/importance of the archaeological remains.
- Site drawings (plans and sections) were to be made by pencil (4H) on drafting film; all drawings were to include standard information: site details, personnel, date, scale, north-point.
- All features and finds were to be accurately located at an appropriate scale.
- All archaeological contexts were to be described to a standard format linked to a continuous numbering sequence.
- Photographic recording was to be based on high resolution digital photography. Photographs included a record of significant features and general working shots. A metric scale, site and context identifier, and a north arrow where appropriate, were to be included in record shots.

It was anticipated that the fieldwork might produce artefactual material. The following recording and retention policies were to be followed:

- In the event that objects containing precious metal(s) were encountered, the coroner was to be informed as per the provisions of the Treasure Act 1996.
- Significant finds in stratified contexts were to be plotted on a scaled base plan or with a Leica GPS unit and recorded as small finds.
- All finds were to be collected in sealable plastic bags which were to be labelled immediately with the site code, the context number or other identifier, the type of material, and the finder's initials. The only exception to this policy was to be that large assemblages of modern (post-1800) material could be representatively sampled.
- Modern (post-1800) finds could be disposed of at the cataloguing stage. This process will be reviewed ahead of its implementation.

#### 2.3.3 Post-fieldwork

Following review with the CAU Project Manager the results from the fieldwork were collated as an archive.

This involved the following.

- Any finds, etc., were to be washed, catalogued, and stored in a proper manner (being clearly labelled and marked and stored according to CAU guidelines). In the event, no finds were recovered during the watching brief.
- All records (drawings, context sheets, photographs, etc.) were ordered, catalogued and stored in an appropriate manner (according to CAU guidelines).
- Colour digital images taken as part of the site archive were deposited with the National Trust archive, as required by the brief.
- All correspondence relating to the project, the WSI, and a single paper copy of the report, stored in an archive standard (acid-free) documentation box.
- Drawn archive storage (plastic wallets for the annotated record drawings).
- The immediate conservation of any artefacts recovered from NT land during the watching brief was to be discussed with the National Trust Archaeological Collections Manager. Artefacts would remain the property of the relevant landowner.

An index to the site archive has been created and the archive contents prepared for long term storage, in accordance with CAU and NT standards.

- The project archive will be deposited with the National Trust.
- Digital data has been stored on the Cornwall Council network which is regularly and frequently backed up. A copy of the data will be archived with the National Trust.

The results from the project have been be drawn together and presented in this report. The scope of the report has been dependent on the scale and significance of the results from the project.

The project has been monitored by the National Trust Regional Archaeologist.

# **3** Location and setting

Porth Nanven House (Cot Valley Lodge) is centred at SW 36183 30611 and Porth Nanven Lodge at SW 36208 30583 on the southern slopes of the Cot Valley in the parish of St. Just in Penwith (Fig 1). The new sewer trench runs from SW 36157 30597 to SW 36227 30583 between 66m OD and 68m OD from the eastern end of a garden plot passing to the north of Porth Nanven Lodge, traversing a public footpath running upslope to Letcha, continuing to the south of Cot Valley Lodge and terminating at a new soakaway trench in an agricultural enclosure to the west of Cot Valley Lodge (Fig 2). The Historic Landscape Character (HLC) of this area is Coastal Rough Ground (CRG). The site has a northerly aspect.

# 4 Designations

## 4.1 International

The Cot Valley falls within Area A(1) of the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscapes World Heritage Site (WHS), inscribed by UNESCO in 2006 and popularly known as the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site.

## 4.2 National

The Cot Valley falls within the Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

## 4.3 Regional/county

The Cot Valley was identified as an Area of Great Historic Value (AGHV) and an Area of Great Scientific Value (AGSV) in the now-superseded Cornwall Structure Plan.

# **5 Site history**

The slopes of the Cot Valley are relatively steep, and thus have always been unsuitable for most agricultural activities. Survey (reported on in Sharpe 1997) has shown that the more or less level land to the south of the valley forming Letcha Farm was laid out to fields during late prehistory, these being partially re-organised during the medieval period and further modified during the post-medieval and modern periods. The valley slopes were not without value, however, as (like land backing the coast) it offered important rough grazing to local farmers as well as a valuable source of fuel in the form of gorse *stogs* (their thick stems), as well as branch wood cropped from stands of willow carr on the lower slopes and in the valley bottom. Such resources would have been valuable from the time of the occupation of this landscape by its first farmers until the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The valley sides and bottom here contained another, very important resource, however. Numerous roughly parallel tin lodes traverse this area, these being traceable from the upper southern slopes of the Cot Valley north-westwards across the valley base and up onto Ballowall Common all the way to Cape Cornwall to the north-west and to Hermon Cliff to the west. Material eroded from some of these lodes had also accumulated in alluvial deposits in the valley bottom, concealed under layers of silt and gravel. As elsewhere in Cornwall and on Dartmoor these *placer* deposits would have been the first to have been exploited, forming the basis of an industry whose output was traded as far as the eastern Mediterranean from prehistory until its high point during the medieval period. Within the St. Just area these deposits were limited in extent, however, and by the 16<sup>th</sup> century they must have been substantially exhausted, as there is ample documentary evidence that local miners were turning to the exploitation of the *in situ* lodes, most of which outcropped on the local cliffs, and might have been detected in the valley bottoms during tin streaming operations.

*Hermeno* (Hermon Mine) was one of the earliest mines to be shown on a map of Cornwall, this dating to the 1560s and possibly drawn up on the instructions of Lord Cecil; the map is kept at the National Trust-owned Hatfield House. A timber pump column archaeologically recovered from the low-level adit of this mine a few years ago was radiocarbon dated to around the same date, indicating that this mine at least was already working sections of the lodes below sea level during the mid-1500s.

Another early map depicting the Cot Valley consists of Joel Gascoyne's 1699 Map of Cornwall. Whilst topographically accurate, detail on the map is restricted to major topographical features and larger settlements; *Beluhall* (Ballowall) and *Besahan* (Bosorne) were the only features depicted near the Cot Valley. Thomas Martyn's 1746 Map of Cornwall shows a similar range of detail, naming *Bullowhall* (Ballowall) and *Corallack* (Carallack), but also *Lecha* (Letcha) and *Hendra*. The map includes some indications of mining activity in the St. Just district; none is shown on Ballowall Common or in the Cot Valley, though research undertaken by Dr. Sandy Gerrard has indicated that this had been underway on a fairly substantial scale for at least two centuries.

There are abundant physical indications of this early activity on both sides of the Cot Valley and on the nearby coast (see the site descriptions in Sharpe 1997). Those associated with an undertaking known as the *Reens* or *Rose Reen* lie within the upper middle section of the southern side of the Cot Valley near Cot Valley Lodge, and can be traced as gunnises and other outcrop workings from the western edge of the enclosure surrounding the YMCA south-eastwards towards Meadowside and Cot Valley Lodge and down to the valley base where there are some indications of tin streamworks (Fig 9). A small granite mortar stone unearthed by Bob Brimley (the former owner of Cot Lodge) in his garden next to a pair of rab-cut excavations on the outcrop of one of these lodes (now a fern pit) is probably medieval or early post-medieval in date and would have been used for assaying locally-won tin ore.

As one of the few significant water courses in the mining parish of St. Just, the Cot Stream was, from an early date, an important source of power for tin dressing. Numerous extensive leats tapped the stream, feeding waterwheel-drive stamps, some of these sites remaining in use until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century (Fig 4).

At least one of these was already in existence by 1699, as can be seen on a map of Bosorne Tenement in the Lanhydrock Atlas. Wheal Rose Stamps and dressing floors (MCO56864) are sited in the valley floor immediately downslope from Cot Valley Lodge (see Sharpe 2012). This establishment is understood to have been depicted on a map of the Hunt Estate holdings drawn up in 1778. In the 1830s it was known as Wheal Rose Stamps (see Fig 4) and it was shown on the *circa* 1840 St. Just Tithe Map (Fig 3). The later evolution of the dressing floors can be traced on the circa 1878 and 1908 Ordnance Survey 25" to a mile mapping (Figs 5 and 6), and a photograph held by John Potter of Nanjulian suggests that the site continued at work into the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Research undertaken by Peter Joseph (2009) suggests that these floors originally dressed tin from Wheal Rose, but subsequently processed material from East St. Just United, Bosorne Mine and Bosorne and Ballowall. It was typical of the type of establishment known as tributer's stamps, these being used by small undertakings which had not constructed their own dressing floors. Joseph's research also indicates that during the 1830s the stamps water wheel also worked a line of flatrods up the southern slopes of the valley powering pumps in a shaft in Wheal Rose.

It has been suggested that the dwelling now known as Porthnanven House and the nearby now-extended associated outbuilding known as Porth Nanven Lodge may have originated as mine service buildings during the early to mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, probably having been constructed as a count house and smithy and as a carpenters' shop (respectively) for Wheal Hermon and South Wheal Rose mines during a re-working of

the tin lodes running under the southern slopes of the Cot Valley and on the cliffs to the south of Porth Nanven, where the Cot Stream meets the sea. A plan of the mine reputedly dating to the mid-1830s (detail shown on the 1878 OS base map as Fig 4) apparently names these structures, but they are omitted from the *circa* 1840 St. Just Tithe Map (Fig 3), and are not shown on Symons' 1857 map of the St. Just Mining District, so may well have been constructed after the later date and to represent a dwelling and its outbuildings rather than mine structures. The buildings at Cot Valley Lodge are first accurately depicted on the OS 1<sup>st</sup> Edition of the 25" mapping dating to 1878 (Fig 5); they appear to have changed little over the following decades (Fig 6), but were substantially remodelled in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century (Figs 7 and 8). These changes included the demolition of a small yard on the north side of the possible carpenter's shop and the subsequent extension of this building to the east.

The agricultural enclosures close by on the valley side probably date from the late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and would have been laid out as part of miners' smallholdings. Those immediately to the west of Cot Valley Lodge were named as *Resiles Plots* in the apportionment to the St. Just Tithe Map and were associated with a cottage higher up the slope. By 1840, these fields and cottage had already been absorbed into Letcha Farm, and were recorded as being occupied by James Trahair, its tenant. The cottage had been demolished by 1878.

In summary, therefore, the apparently 'natural' landscape of the Cot Valley has been affected by human activity for at least 2,000 years, if not longer. Much of its apparent 'wildness' is a by-product of mining activity, indeed the presence of the close-set workings along the outcrops of its numerous lodes has prevented any subsequent profitable re-use of much of the valley slopes, whilst others have determined the alignments of the boundaries of the small number of early 19<sup>th</sup> century agricultural enclosures located on the sides of the valley (Fig 9). In some areas, later development has hidden the existence of these workings; 'lost' shafts or backfilled outcrop workings make their presence known through subsidence from time to time in the Cot Valley.

# 6 Archaeological results

The fieldwork was undertaken on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of January 2018, excavation being undertaken by Penwith Tank and Drain Services on behalf of the principal contractor: Jason Sincock of R. Sincock and Son Builders, Penzance. The weather was overcast and chilly but generally dry.

Given access limitations, the pump chamber and the eastern end of the trench line was excavated by hand (Fig 10). The pump chamber was excavated immediately adjacent to the existing Klargester septic tank outside Porthnanven Cottage; the excavation measured approximately 800mm x 800mm in plan and was 1.6m deep. The majority of the excavation was in redeposited material, presumably that previously excavated for when the adjacent Klargester tank was being installed. The excavated material – a mixture of topsoil and subsoil, often inverted from their natural sequence – included pieces of plastic and a modern steel and plastic high chair indicating recent disturbance of this piece of ground. A dark reddish brown mineralised buried topsoil was found at 1.4m from surface, this overlying intact rab (granitic subsoil) 200mm deep with indications of undisturbed granite bedrock immediately below this depth. All the indications were that the lawned area to the north of Porthnanven Cottage had been deliberately built up above the levels of the access lane to the north, the northern side of the built-up ground being revetted with some roughly coursed stonework.

To the west of the new pump chamber a 400mm wide, 400mm deep trench for the pumped dirty water pipe was hand excavated along the northern edge of the concrete path next to Porth Nanven Cottage. The eastern end of the trench revealed only topsoil, tree and shrub roots, a 100mm drainage pipe, apparently running back towards the septic tank and a north heading modern plastic 50mm water drain pipe within its eastern section. The presence of a large gravel-covered mass concrete slab immediately to the west of this first section of excavation required the contractor to cut

a 400mm wide x 400mm deep trench through the edge of this feature immediately to the north of Porthnanven Cottage. To the west of this the pipe was trenched through the edge of a flower bed next to the path. The trench was narrow and shallow and no features other than a modern water supply pipe were revealed.

In parallel with the excavation near Porthnanven Cottage, trenching was undertaken from the west side of the public footpath westwards within the garden to the south of Porthnanven House following the dismantling of a section of drystone-built boundary hedge. Again, the trench was 400mm wide and 400mm deep, though in this instance the excavation was undertaken using a tracked excavator, but cleaned up by hand. The topsoil along most of this section of trench proved to be very shallow - no more than 75mm in most areas, and sometimes less than this. This overlaid very compact intact rab. At the western end of this section of trench where it approached an historic boundary the topsoil abruptly deepened to the full depth of the trench – subsoil was not encountered in this section (see Fig 12).

Within the field to the west where the trench was to terminate, five test pits measuring 600mm wide by 1.0m long had previously been excavated in order for percolation tests to be carried out. Examination of these showed that the topsoil depths in this field increase progressively down the hillslope from 100mm eight metres from its upper edge to 300mm twelve metres from this boundary. The lower western part of the field was notable for its more rank vegetation and damper soils. It seems likely that ploughing and other cultivation activities within this former smallholder's field had resulted in much of the topsoil migrating down the relatively steep hill slope to build up against the lower boundary – the field surface adjoining the boundary hedge on the northern side of this field is in excess of 2.0m above the public footpath immediately to its north. At least half of this depth is likely to be topsoil.

Further percolation tests were undertaken in the existing trial pits to determine whether an area approximately 12m from and approximately parallel to the southern hedge of the enclosure would be a suitable location for the anticipated volume of dirty water likely to be produced by Porthnanven Cottage. It was determined that a gravel-filled soakaway trench 22m long x 1.2m wide and a minimum of 800mmm deep would be adequate to meet the requirements of the holiday cottage.

The topsoil stripping and excavation of most of this trench (Fig 11) was undertaken on the 9<sup>th</sup> January during weather which changed from overcast to drizzle and then rain during the course of the day (see cover photograph). The trenching was completed on the following day. Given the slope of the field (over a width of 1.3m the upper edge of the trench was 0.6m higher than the downslope side) machine excavation was awkward and required a substantial amount of partial pre-stripping and levelling and as a result the exposure of the topsoil/subsoil interface was not as cleanly achieved as would have been the case on a more level site. A 1.2m x average 800mmm deep trench was excavated out to the hedgeline running diagonally down the western edge of the enclosure. Topsoil depths on the upslope side of the trench varied from 200mm to 50mmm from east to west along the length of the trench, whilst that on the downslope slide averaged 300mm. Whilst a small number of mineralised lode stringers were picked up, no mine workings or other features were identified. The topsoil was universally clean and contained no artefacts whatsoever.

The final section of trenching was excavated from the gate at the western end of the Porth Nanven cottage path across the public footpath to connect with the already excavated trench to the south of Porthnanven House. This work was undertaken on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January. Most sections of this part of the trench route were surfaced with a 75mm thick skim of concrete incorporating fist-sized pieces of granite. This work was undertaken by hand. Indications of mortared wall footings 600mm wide were found immediately downslope from the western end of Porth Nanven Cottage which might represent the remains of the yard documented on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition OS 25" maps; the only other features found were a domestic water supply pipe at the surface level of the track; two parallel strips of concrete at the level of the footpath surface suggested

that the western end of Porth Nanven Cottage might have been used as a vehicle garage prior to its extension and conversion to a dwelling.

# 7 Conclusions/discussion

No archaeological features other than the probable wall foundation and concrete strips were found. It has to be concluded that the site chosen for the construction of Cot Valley Lodge (Porthnanven House) and Porthnanven Cottage was deliberately chosen so as to lie on unworked ground between the two adjacent lode outcrops to its east and west.

# 8 References

## 8.1 Primary sources

Charles Moody, 1778, Hunt Estate Map (not accessed but understood to be relevant)

- Plan of Wheal Hermon and South Wheal Rose, c1830 (copy held by Bill North of Calartha, Pendeen)
- Tithe Map and Apportionment, c1840. Parish of St. Just in Penwith (licensed digital copy at CRO)

Ordnance Survey, c1880. 25 Inch Map First Edition (licensed digital copy at CAU)

Ordnance Survey, c1907. 25 Inch Map Second Edition (licensed digital copy at CAU)

Copy of early 20<sup>th</sup> century photograph of Wheal Rose Stamps provided by John Potter of Nanjulian, St. Just in Penwith

RAF aerial photograph A21/4309, 1946

Potato Marketing Board aerial photographs, West Penwith, 1973

CCC aerial photographs, 2000

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Sharpe, A., 1999. Ballowall, St Just in Penwith, Cornwall. An Archaeological Assessment. CAU report 1999R018

Sharpe, A., 2012. Wheal Rose Stamps, Cot Valley, St. Just in Penwith, Cornwall: archaeological recording of the dressing floors prior to works, CAU report 2012R013

#### 8.3 Websites

http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/ Online database of Sites and Monuments Records and Listed Buildings

# **9** Project archive

The CAU project number is **146758** 

The project's documentary, digital, photographic and drawn archive is maintained by Cornwall Archaeological Unit

Electronic data is stored in the following location:

\\CAU\Archive\Sites P\Porth Nanven House sewer watching brief 146758

Historic England/ADS OASIS online reference: cornwall2-306683



Fig 3. An extract from the circa 1840 St. Just Tithe Map showing the location subsequently occupied by Cot Valley Lodge. The red line shows the trench route.



Fig 4. The 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS 25" mapping with, overlaid, names and locations of sites identified on the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century map of Wheal Hermon and South Wheal Rose. The identification of Cot Valley Lodge as a former count house remains uncertain.



*Fig 5. An extract from the circa 1878 OS 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 25" mapping.* 



*Fig 6. An extract from the circa 1907 OS 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 25" mapping.* 



Fig 7. An extract from the 1973 Potato Marketing Board aerial survey.



Fig 8. An extract from the 2005 Cornwall County Council aerial mapping.



*Fig 9. An extract from the 1997 CAU survey showing the locations of early outcrop mining features near Cot Valley Lodge and Meadowside.* 



Fig 10. Hand excavation of the eastern end of the trench in progress.



Fig 11. Machine soil stripping and trench excavation at the western end of the trench line showing the varying depths of topsoil resulting from the steep valley slope.



Fig 12. The considerable topsoil depths found at the western end of the garden area, probably reflecting the location of a former earth bank boundary.

# Appendix 1: Summary of Written Scheme of Investigation

## Project background

Cornwall Archaeological Unit (CAU) was contacted by Amanda Turner of the National Trust, Exeter, with a request for a method statement and archaeological watching brief to be undertaken at Cot Valley Lodge, St. Just in Penwith, Cornwall, during the installation of a replacement septic tank and associated pipework trenching. The property is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Haslam, but is subject to National Trust covenants. It is entirely surrounded by land owned and managed by the National Trust; furthermore, the proposed sewer trenching will cross land owned by the National Trust. The trenching will run from approximately SW 36227 30581 to SW 36157 30595. The site is wholly within the boundaries of Area A(1) of the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site and the Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

Cot Valley Lodge is sited at SW 36197 30600, on the southern side of the Cot Valley, which it overlooks. It is adjacent to two public footpaths. Lines of early mine workings run to its east and west.

This document sets out a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) by Cornwall Archaeological Unit (CAU) for the programme of archaeological investigation at Cot Valley Lodge.

The work has been requested by Mr. Jim Parry, the National Trust Regional Archaeologist, who supplied a brief to guide this method statement and the work to be undertaken on site.

## **Project extent**

The watching brief will cover the full extent of the pipe trenching and the site of the new septic tank as shown on Figure 1.

## Aims and objectives

The principal aim of the study is to gain a better understanding of the archaeology of this part of the Cot Valley and the wider St. Just area.

The objectives are to:

- Obtain an archaeological record of the site during the development.
- Produce a report detailing the results of the watching brief.

## Working methods

All recording work will be undertaken according to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) guidance (CIfA 2014a, 2014b, 2014c, 2017). Staff will follow the CIfA *Code of Conduct* (2014d). The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists is the professional body for archaeologists working in the UK, and will be guided by the National Trust brief dated 17 December 2017.

## Timetable

The study is anticipated to commence during early January 2018. CAU will normally require at least 2 weeks' notice before commencement of work, in order to allocate field staff and arrange other logistics.

The archive report will be completed within a maximum of 3 months of the end of the fieldwork. The deposition of the archive will be completed within a maximum of 3 months of the completion of the archive report.

## Monitoring and Signing Off Condition

Monitoring of the project will be carried out by the National Trust Regional Archaeologist.

• The Regional Archaeologist will monitor the work and should be kept regularly informed of progress.

- Notification of the start of work shall be given preferably in writing to the Regional Archaeologist at least one week in advance of its commencement.
- Any variations to the WSI will be agreed with the Regional Archaeologist, in writing, prior to them being carried out.
- If significant detail is discovered, all works must cease and a meeting convened with the client and the Regional Archaeologist to discuss the most appropriate way forward.

Monitoring points during the study will include:

- Approval of the WSI
- Completion of fieldwork
- Completion of archive report
- Deposition of the archive

#### **Project staff**

The project will be managed by Dr. Andy Jones MCIfA who, with the Project Officer will:

- Discuss and agree the detailed objectives and programme of each stage of the project with the client and the field officers, including arrangements for health and safety.
- Monitor progress and results for each stage.
- Edit the project report.
- Liaise with the client regarding the budget and related issues.
- Work will be carried out by CAU field staff. All staff will follow CAU's Health and Safety Policy and work in accordance with a site-specific risk assessment.
- The project is expected to be undertaken by:

#### Adam Sharpe BA MCIfA

Projects Archaeologist specialising in the recording, interpretation and conservation management of industrial buildings, sites and landscapes, having worked with CAU and its predecessors since 1984. His major projects during the past three decades have included the Bodmin Moor and West Penwith Projects, the St. Just survey and all of the related National Trust and Objective One conservation projects, the Minions Survey, most elements of the Mineral Tramways Project and the conservation of Trewavas mine. Adam has been closely involved with the development of Geevor into a major heritage site since its closure in 1991 to the present day and managed the data collection and boundary identification stages of the successful Cornish Mining World Heritage Site Bid. Adam has designed, managed and undertaken a large number of development-related projects including wind and solar farm impact assessments, has written several Conservation Plans and equivalent management documents and has undertaken a number of assessment projects relating to Tintagel Castle in the past few years. Adam's research interests include the development of mining and metallurgy in prehistoric and later south-west Britain, the influences of changes in society, culture and economy on the evolution of the landscape over time and the ways in which communities identify with their local historic environment. Adam is a full member of the CIFA and a member of the CIFA Buildings Group. Adam holds a CSCS card.

Adam will undertake the watching brief and produce the project report.

#### **Report distribution**

- Paper copies of the report will be distributed to the client, to the National Trust Regional Office, to local archives and national archaeological record centres.
- A digital copy of the report, illustrations and any other files will be held in the Cornwall HER and also supplied to the client on CD or other suitable media.

## Copyright

Copyright of all material gathered as a result of the project will be reserved to the National Trust. Existing copyrights of external sources will be acknowledged where required.

This WSI was produced by:

Adam Sharpe BA MCIfA Archaeology Projects Officer 19 December 2017

## Cornwall Archaeological Unit

Cornwall Council Fal Building, County Hall, Treyew Road, Truro, Cornwall. TR1 3AY Tel: 07968 892146 Email: asharpe@cau.org.uk Porth Nanven House new sewer watching brief

# **Cornwall Archaeological Unit**

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